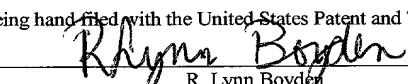
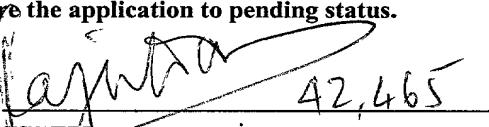


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (REV. 11-2000)		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER  449122007900
<b>TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 371</b>		U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)  <b>09/890786</b> No yet assigned
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.  PCT/DE00/00279	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE  01 February 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED  05 February 1999
TITLE OF INVENTION  <b>METHOD FOR IMPROVING A LOAD DISTRIBUTION IN A SIGNALLING NETWORK</b>		
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US  <b>Walthari FUNK et al.</b>		
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:		
<p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>FIRST</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>3. <input type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.</p> <p>4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (PCT Article 31).</p> <p>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))        a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).        b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau.        c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).</p> <p>6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))        a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto.        b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</p> <p>7. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).        a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).        b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau.        c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.        d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.</p> <p>8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).</p> <p>9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).</p> <p>10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).</p>		
Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:		
<p>11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.</p> <p>12. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.</p> <p>13. <input type="checkbox"/> A <b>FIRST</b> preliminary amendment.</p> <p>14. <input type="checkbox"/> A <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> preliminary amendment.</p> <p>15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</p> <p>16. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.</p> <p>17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.</p> <p>18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</p> <p>19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</p> <p>20. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: 1) IPER; 2) PCT Search Report; 3) Application Data Sheet; 4) Return receipt postcard.</p>		
<b>CERTIFICATE OF HAND DELIVERY</b>		
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being hand filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office in Washington, D.C. on August 6, 2001.   R. Lynn Boyden		

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5) Not yet assigned		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/DE00/00279	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER: 449122007900
<p>21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted:</p> <p><b>BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)):</b></p> <p>Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO.....\$1,000.00</p> <p>International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO.....\$860.00</p> <p>International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO.....\$710.00</p> <p>International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provision of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) .....\$690.00</p> <p>International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) .....\$100.00</p>			<b>CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY</b>
<b>ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</b>			\$860.00
Surcharge of <b>\$130.00</b> for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).			\$0
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE
Total claims	11 - 20 =	0	x \$18.00 \$0
Independent claims	3 - 3 =	0	x \$80.00 \$0
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$270.00 \$0
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</b>			\$860.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by $\frac{1}{2}$ .			\$0
<b>SUBTOTAL =</b>			\$860.00
Processing fee of <b>\$130.00</b> for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).			+ \$0
<b>TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =</b>			\$860.00
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). <b>\$40.00 per property</b>			+ \$40.00
<b>TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =</b>			\$900.00
			<b>Amount to be refunded:</b> \$
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<p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please charge my <u>Deposit Account No. 03-1952</u> in the amount of \$900.00 to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment to <u>Deposit Account No. 03-1952</u>.</p>			
<p><b>NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.</b></p>			
<p>SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:</p> <p>Kevin R. Spivak Morrison &amp; Foerster LLP 2000 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006-1888</p> <p> 42,465</p> <p><b>SIGNATURE</b></p> <p>Kevin R. Spivak Registration No. 43,148</p>			

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Description

Method for improving a load distribution in a signaling network

5

The present invention relates to a method for improving a load distribution in a signaling network, and in particular to what is referred to as a load sharing method in which signaling messages are uniformly distributed in a signaling network.

Communications networks generally connect two subscriber terminals to one another over a plurality of line sections and switching equipment for the exchange of messages (for example voice, data, text or images).

15 In the control of the connections and in the application of services, control information has to be transmitted here between the switching offices. In particular digital, computer-controlled communications networks provide a significantly greater range of services in comparison with analog communications networks, for which reason a new high-capacity signaling system has been introduced in digital, computer-controlled communications networks.

20 The CCITT (now ITU, International Telecommunication Union) has therefore specified the central signaling system No. 7 (CCS7) which is optimized for use in digital networks.

25 In contrast to the previously customary channel-bound signaling, in the CCS7 the signaling messages are conducted over separate signaling routes or signaling lines (links). A plurality of signaling lines (links) form here a signaling line group (link set, LS), a signaling line group (link set) having at maximum 16 signaling lines (links). A signaling route, 30 i.e. signaling link or signaling line group can

transport the signal messages here for a large number of user information channels (trunks).

The signaling routes or signaling line groups (link sets, LS) of the CCS7 connect message transfer parts (MTP) to one another in a communications network. The message transfer parts and the signaling line groups thus form an independent signaling network which is superimposed on the user information channel network. The signaling end points are the sources and sinks of the signaling traffic and are primarily implemented in a communications network by the switching offices. Here, the message transfer parts (MTP) pass on received signaling messages to another message transfer part (MTP) or to a signaling end point using a destination address (destination point code, DPC). No switching processing of the signaling messages takes place in a message transfer part (MTP). A message transfer part can be integrated in a signaling end point (for example a switching office) or form a separate node in the signaling network. One or more levels of message transfer parts are possible depending on the size of the signaling network.

All the signaling points in a predefined signaling network are characterized within the framework of a numbering plan, defined by the ITU (International Telecommunication Union), by, for example, a 14 point code (PC), and can thus be selectively addressed in a message signaling unit (MSU).

As well as, for example, a destination address (destination point code, DPC) and a source address (origin point code, OPC), a speaking circuit address (circuit identification code, CIC) is stored in the message signaling unit (MSU) transmitted in the signaling network. According

to the ITU standard, this speaking circuit address CIC has 12 bits, the least significant bits being referred to as signaling link selection field (SLS). According to ITU, predetermined signaling routes via the 5 signaling link selection field (SLS values) are assigned to the various message signaling units (MSU).

Figure 5 shows a schematic view of a conventional signaling network. The reference symbols A, B, C, D, E, F show message transfer parts (MTP) of 10 respective switching offices which are connected to one another via signaling line groups LS (link sets). According to figure 5, the message transfer part A designates a source address (origin point code, OPC) and the message transfer part (MTP) F designates a 15 destination address (destination point code, DPC). In the conventional signaling network according to figure 5, message signaling units can be transmitted via various signaling line groups LS to the destination point F (routing). In order to generate a uniform load 20 in the signaling network, all the message signaling units with a signaling link selection field SLS=XX00 are conducted via the route A → B → D → F here according to figure 5. The message signaling unit (MSU) with the SLS values XX10 are conducted via a route 25 A → C → D → F. In the same way, the message signaling units (MSU) with an SLS value of XX01 and SLS value XX11 are conducted via the routes A → B → E → F or A → C → E → F. This example relates to the normal state of a CCS7 network without the inclusion of 30 network elements which may have failed (reference ITU Q.705, Annex A). However, because, according to the ITU, the SLS values cannot be changed within a message signaling unit (MSU) and the network is composed of a plurality of message transfer parts (MTP) which use the 35 same load distribution rules for the SLS values, there is often a state in which signaling lines (links) or signaling line groups (link sets, LS) are empty or do

not have much data assigned to them. As a result, an unequal distribution of load is generated.

5 This problem becomes more difficult if, instead of the two signaling line groups LSA1 and LSA2 according to figure 5, suddenly four signaling line groups are connected to a message transfer part (MTP) and are used simultaneously for transporting the MSUs in the load distribution method.

10 Figure 6 shows a schematic view of a further conventional signaling network in which four signaling line groups (link sets) LS1, LS2, LS3 and LS4 are connected to a message transfer part (MTP). Accordingly, when there are four signaling line groups (link sets), two bits of the signaling link selection 15 field (SLS) must be used in the speech circuit address (CIC) of the message signaling unit (MSU) in order to select a line group from the four available signaling line groups. As a result, when there is a load distribution (load sharing) over four signaling line 20 groups LS, only four SLS values are then received at the adjacent message transfer part (MTP), which in turn signifies problems in the further load distribution within a signaling line group for the respective 25 signaling lines.

According to figure 6, the reference symbol OPC designates a message transfer part from which message 30 signaling units are to be transmitted via signaling line groups LS1, LS2, LS3 and LS4. The reference symbols X1, X2, X3 and X4 designate further message transfer parts (MTP) which are, for example, integrated into switching offices and constitute part of the signaling network. The message transfer parts X1-X4 have, in the same way as the message transfer part OPC, 35 four signaling line groups (link sets) with which there is a respective connection to the destination addresses (DPC) or message transfer parts Y1, Y2, Y3 and Y4. Usually, the message transfer parts OPC and X1-X4 have the same load distribution rules, according to which 40 message signaling units (MSU) with the SLS values 0-3

are passed on to a signaling line group LS1, MSUs with  
SLS values 4-7 are passed on to

a signaling line group LS2, MSUs with SLS values 8-11 are passed on to a signaling line group LS3, and MSUs with SLS values of 12-15 are passed on to a signaling line group LS4. However, this application of identical  
5 load distribution rules leads to an unequal load distribution in the signaling network even in the message transfer parts X1-X4 and their associated signaling line groups. To be more precise, in the signaling network according to figure 6 there is heavy  
10 loading for in each case just one of a sum of four signaling line groups, here for example the line groups LS(x1,y1), LS(x2,y2), LS(x3,y3) and LS(x4,y4), while the other signaling line groups are loaded to a lesser degree.

15 As the number of the signaling line groups involved in the load distribution method on the respective message transfer routes increases, there is a further worsening of the load distribution in the signaling network. However, because the signaling lines  
20 or signaling line groups in the signaling network constitute extremely expensive data lines, such an unequal load distribution is extremely uneconomical.

In order to eliminate such cases of unequal loading in a signaling network, there have been  
25 hitherto purely manual remedies, in which the inadequate load distribution in the signaling network is corrected by means of an operator intervention (man machine language command).

A further disadvantage with conventional load  
30 distribution methods is manifest when there is a sum failure of a signaling line group. Here, there is usually a complete switchover to an available signaling line group irrespective of an actual load distribution, as a result of which in turn undesired shifts could  
35 occur in the load distribution of the signaling network.

The invention is therefore based on the object of providing a method for improving a load distribution in a signaling network which can be used cost-effectively to the same extent in any message transfer 5 part.

In addition, the invention is based on the object of implementing a uniform distribution of a load in the signaling network when a signaling line group fails.

10 This object is achieved according to the invention with the measures of patent claims 1 and 5.

Each signaling line group is preferably assigned a predetermined number of route meters which corresponds to the number of actual routes, a deviation 15 of the individual meters being kept as small as possible. As a result, a balanced load distribution of the message signaling units among the respective signaling line groups is obtained for all the actual routes.

20 On the other hand, it is possible to provide for each signaling line group precisely one summation meter which represents a number of used signaling line groups in actual routes and is compared with other summation meters. In this way, the load distribution in 25 the respectively used signaling line groups can compensate each other.

The methods described above are preferably combined with one another, as a result of which a particularly balanced load distribution in the 30 signaling network is obtained.

Advantageous refinements of the invention are characterized in the subclaims.

The invention is described in more detail below by means of exemplary embodiments and with reference to 35 the drawing,

in which:

figure 1 shows a schematic view of a signaling network;

5 figure 2 shows a flowchart of a method for improving a  
load distribution in a signaling network according to a  
first exemplary embodiment;

10 figure 3 shows a flowchart of a method for improving a  
load distribution in a signaling network according to a  
third exemplary embodiment;

15 figure 4 shows a flowchart of a method for improving a  
load distribution in a signaling network according to a  
fourth exemplary embodiment;

figure 5 shows a schematic view of a conventional  
signaling network; and

20 figure 6 shows a schematic view of a further  
conventional signaling network.

The basic idea of the present invention  
consists in performing a message transfer part (MTP)  
25 load distribution by means of signaling line groups  
(link sets) not only on the basis of the signaling link  
selection field (SLS field) described above, in a  
message signaling unit (MSU) as in the ITU standard but  
also to determine the load distribution in a  
30 coordinated way for all the destination addresses (DPC)  
in a database.

The load distribution over signaling line  
groups (link sets) is determined in advance by a  
message transfer part network manager (MTP network  
35 management) and made available to a message transfer  
part routing system (MTP routing). These calculations  
are carried out not only selectively per destination  
address

(destination point code, DPC), but are matched to one another automatically for all the destination addresses. In this way, subsequent load distribution rules, for example load distribution within a signaling line group in its own switching office and load distribution in the adjacent switching offices, have ideal conditions because again all 16 SLS values are available. Furthermore, with a load distribution over four signaling line groups (link sets) there is the further advantage that the equivalent network circuits are apportioned better.

In principle, a load distribution method functions satisfactorily, best, if all 16 SLS values are available at the input of the method. In this way, a good load distribution can then be generated at the output of the method. In order to achieve this, coordination should be carried out within the entire network in such a way that as far as possible all the message transfer parts ensure that as far as possible all 16 SLS values are transmitted over a signaling line group.

The invention is described in more detail below with reference to a first exemplary embodiment.

25 First exemplary embodiment

Figure 1 shows a schematic view of a signaling network in which the method according to the invention for improving a load distribution can be applied. The reference symbol 1000 designates a switching office whose message transfer part (MTP) has the destination address 1000. In the same way, the reference symbols 2000 to 8200 each refer to respective switching offices with associated message transfer parts and corresponding destination addresses 2000 to 8200. However, in the following exemplary embodiments, only the message transfer parts with the destination addresses (DPC) 6000, 7000, 8000, 8100 and 8200 are taken into account, while the message transfer parts 2000 to 5000 serve only for passing on

the message signaling units MSUs to be transferred. The message transfer part 1000 has a plurality of signaling line groups LSx, of which in particular the signaling line groups LS3, LS4, LS20 and LS50 are considered  
5 below. The message transfer part 1000 has, for example, routes which have already been activated to further destination addresses in the signaling network, and has the values illustrated in table 1 for the respective route meters  $C(LSx,y)$  which are assigned to the  
10 respective signaling line groups LS3, LS4, LS20 and LS50.

Table 1

Route meters $C(LSx,y)$ signaling line groups LSx	$y = 1$ $C(LSx,1)$	$y = 2$ $C(LSx,2)$	$y = 3$ $C(LSx,3)$	$y = 4$ $C(LSx,4)$	$C_{Sum/m}$ (number m CRs = 4) $C_{setp}(LSx)$
.....					
.....					
link set 3	5	6	4	5	5
link set 4	6	4	6	5	5.25
.....					
link set 20	12	13	14	11	12.5
.....					
link set 50	1	4	3	2	2.5
.....					
.....					

15

In table 1, the values for the respective signaling line groups link set 3, link set 4, link set 20 and link set 50 refer to the respective meter readings for the actual route (current route), four  
20 actual routes (current route, CR) being assumed in table 1. The last column refers to a setpoint meter reading for the respective signaling line groups LSx. The setpoint meter reading  $C_{setp}(LSx)$  results from the division of the sum values for the route

meter of a respective signaling line group LSx with the number m of actual routes or route meters CRy. In the example according to table 1, the number m for the route meters CRy is equal to 4, the number n for the 5 signaling line groups LSx which are used also having the value 4.

An actual route (current route) is subsequently to be set up from the message transfer part 1000 to the 10 destination address (DPC) 7000. Because the destination address (DPC) 7000 cannot yet be reached, there are no signaling line groups LSx (link sets) entered in the active actual routes (active current routes).

15 Table 2

CR1	CR2	CR3	CR4
LS ?	LS ?	LS ?	LS ?

The available signaling line groups LS3, LS4, LS20 and LS50 will now become actual routes (current 20 routes) for the destination address (DPC) 7000. In order to obtain the most uniform possible load distribution over the actual routes (CR1, CR2, CR3 and CR4), an absolute deviation  $\Delta C(LSx,y)$  is firstly determined. For this, according to equation (1) a 25 setpoint meter reading  $C_{setp}(LSx)$  is firstly determined for each signaling line group LSx to be used.

$$C_{setp}(LSx) = \sum C(LSx,y) / m, \quad (1)$$

30  $C(LSx,y)$  representing the respective value of a route meter for a specific signaling line group LSx and a specific actual route CRy, and m indicating the number of actual routes CRy.

35 According to equation (2), the absolute deviation  $\Delta C(LSx,y)$  is obtained as

$$\text{DELTA } C(\text{LSx}, y) = C_{\text{setp}}(\text{LSx}) - C(\text{LSx}, y) \quad (2)$$

In order to generate an optimum load distribution for the first actual route CR1, a relative deviation of the individual meter readings must also be determined. According to equation (3), this relative deviation  $\Delta C_{rel}$  is obtained as

$$\text{Delta Crel (LSx,y)} = \text{DELTA C(LSx,y)} / \text{Csetp} \quad (3)$$

The result matrix for the calculated values of the absolute deviation  $\text{DELTA C(LSx,y)}$  and of the relative deviation  $\text{Delta Crel (LSx,y)}$  are given in table 3.

Table 3

DELTA C(LS3,1) = 0	Delta Crel (LS3,1) = 0
DELTA C(LS3,2) = -1	Delta Crel (LS3,2) = -0.20
DELTA C(LS3,3) = +1	Delta Crel (LS3,3) = +0.20
DELTA C(LS3,4) = 0	Delta Crel (LS3,4) = 0
DELTA C(LS4,1) = -0.75	Delta Crel (LS4,1) = -0.14
DELTA C(LS4,2) = +1.25	Delta Crel (LS4,2) = +0.24
DELTA C(LS4,3) = -0.75	Delta Crel (LS4,3) = -0.14
DELTA C(LS4,4) = +0.25	Delta Crel (LS4,4) = +0.05
DELTA C(LS20,1) = +0.5	Delta Crel (LS20,1) = +0.04
DELTA C(LS20,2) = -0.5	Delta Crel (LS20,2) = -0.04
DELTA C(LS20,3) = -1.5	Delta Crel (LS20,3) = -0.12
DELTA C(LS20,4) = +1.5	Delta Crel (LS20,4) = +0.12
DELTA C(LS50,1) = +1.5	Delta Crel (LS50,1) = +0.60
DELTA C(LS50,2) = -1.5	Delta Crel (LS50,2) = -0.60
DELTA C(LS50,3) = -0.5	Delta Crel (LS50,3) = -0.20
DELTA C(LS50,4) = +0.5	Delta Crel (LS50,4) = +0.20

Here, the value 0 in table 3 signifies an ideal value, i.e. there is no deviation from the setpoint value. A positive value for the absolute and/or relative deviation signifies an "upward" deviation (setpoint value greater than the actual value), i.e. load should be added, while a negative value signifies a "downward" deviation (setpoint value smaller than the actual value), i.e. load should be reduced.

Because a load can only be added in the first exemplary embodiment (it is to be additionally possible to reach the destination address 7000), the values of the greatest possible deviation are always selected for each signaling line group LSx.

Because the value Delta Crel (LS50,1) = +0.60 constitutes the highest positive deviation, the signaling line group LS50 (link set 50) is entered into the actual route CR1. There are thus only still the actual routes CR2, CR3 and CR4 remaining to be assigned. The signaling line group LS50 can be used only once as an actual route CR, and is no longer taken into account in the further allocation.

Accordingly, the selection matrix according to table 4 is obtained for the search for the signaling line group LSx for the next actual route CRy.

25

Table 4

Delta Crel(LS3,1) = CR1 is already assigned

Delta Crel(LS3,2) = -0.20

Delta Crel(LS3,3) = +0.20

Delta Crel(LS3,4) = 0

Delta Crel(LS4,1) = CR1 is already assigned

Delta Crel(LS4,2) = +0.24

Delta Crel(LS4,3) = -0.14

Delta Crel(LS4,4) = +0.05

Delta Crel(LS20,1) = CR1 is already assigned  
Delta Crel(LS20,2)/12.5 = -0.04  
Delta Crel(LS20,3)/12.5 = -0.12  
Delta Crel(LS20,4)/12.5 = +0.12

According to table 4, the value Delta Crel(LS4,2) = +0.24 has the highest positive deviation, for which reason the signaling line group LS4 is entered  
5 for the actual route CR2. Consequently, there are still only the actual routes CR3 and CR4 remaining to be assigned, and it is no longer permitted to use the signaling line group LS4.

10 The remaining selection matrix for the search for a signaling line group LSx for the next actual route CRy is thus obtained from table 5.

Table 5

Delta Crel(LS3,1) = CR1 is already assigned  
Delta Crel(LS3,2) = CR2 is already assigned  
Delta Crel(LS3,3) = +0.20  
Delta Crel(LS3,4) = 0

Delta Crel(LS20,1) = CR1 is already assigned  
Delta Crel(LS20,2) = CR2 is already assigned  
Delta Crel(LS20,3) = -0.12  
Delta Crel(LS20,4) = +0.12

15 According to table 5, the value Delta Crel(LS3,3) = +0.20 is the highest positive deviation, for which reason the signaling line group LS3 is entered in the actual route CR3, and only the remaining signaling line group LS20 is still available for the remaining  
20 actual route CR4, and is accordingly entered.

The active actual routes for the destination address (DPC) 7000 consequently have the distribution according to table 6.

Table 6

CR1	CR2	CR3	CR4
link set 50	link set 4	link set 3	link set 20

The route meters  $C(LSx,y)$  for the affected  
5 signaling line groups and actual routes, i.e. for  
 $C(LS50,1)$ ,  $C(LS4,2)$ ,  $C(LS3,3)$  and  $C(LS20,4)$ , have now  
incremented by 1, while the remaining route meters  
remain unchanged. According to table 7, this results in  
an improved load distribution because the variance of  
10 the absolute and relative deviations is improved.

Table 7

Delta Crel (LS3,1) = 0 → +0.05

Delta Crel (LS3,2) = -0.20 → -0.14

Delta Crel (LS3,3) = +0.20 → +0.05 Variance

Delta Crel (LS3,4) = 0 → +0.05  $-0.20/+0.20 \rightarrow -0.14/+0.05$

Delta Crel (LS4,1) = -0.14 → -0.09

Delta Crel (LS4,2) = +0.24 → +0.09

Delta Crel (LS4,3) = -0.14 → -0.09 Variance

Delta Crel (LS4,4) = +0.05 → +0.09  $-0.14/+0.24 \rightarrow -0.09/+0.09$

Delta Crel (LS20,1) = +0.04 → +0.06

Delta Crel (LS20,2) = -0.04 → -0.02

Delta Crel (LS20,3) = -0.12 → -0.10 Variance

Delta Crel (LS20,4) = +0.12 → +0.06  $-0.12/+0.12 \rightarrow -0.10/+0.06$

Delta Crel (LS50,1) = +0.60 → +0.27

Delta Crel (LS50,2) = -0.60 → -0.46

Delta Crel (LS50,3) = -0.20 → -0.09 Variance

Delta Crel (LS50,4) = +0.20 → +0.27  $-0.60/+0.60 \rightarrow -0.46/+0.27$

Figure 2 shows a flowchart of a method according to the invention for improving a load distribution according to the first exemplary embodiment.

5 According to figure 2, all the route meters used and other meter readings are initialized in a step S1 in order to set up an actual route CRy by means of what is referred to as a position method. In a step S2, a loop is connected for all n signaling line groups LSx  
10 in actual route CRy, the method progressing to a step S6 only when all n signaling line groups LSx have been processed. In a step S3, a setpoint meter reading is calculated, a summation meter  $C_{Sum}(LSx)$  being firstly determined for each signaling line group LSx. The value  
15 of the summation meter  $C_{Sum}(LSx)$  resulting here from the sum of all the values of the route meters  $C(LSx,y)$  for a specific signaling line group LSx. On the basis of this value, the setpoint meter reading  $Csetp(LSx)$  is determined by dividing the value of the summation meter  
20  $C_{Sum}(LSx)$  by a number m for the actual routes CR.

In a step S4, a loop is carried out for all m actual routes CRy, the method not jumping to the step S2 until all m actual routes CRy have been processed.

25 In a step S5, the relative deviations  $\Delta C_{rel}(LSx,y)$  from the setpoint meter reading are calculated for each actual route CRy. Firstly, an absolute deviation  $\Delta C(LSx,y)$  is determined here for each actual route CRy which results from the difference between the setpoint meter reading  
30  $Csetp(LSx)$  and the value of the route meter  $C(LSx,y)$ . The relative deviation  $\Delta C_{rel}(LSx,y)$  is then calculated by dividing the absolute deviation by the setpoint meter reading.

When the loops have been completely carried out in steps S2 and S4, a matrix of  $n \times m$  relative deviation values, which are considered below, is obtained. In a step S6, a loop is carried out until all 5  $m$  actual routes CRy are assigned. The greatest relative deviation is then only determined in a step S7, from the matrix of  $n \times m$  relative deviation values Delta Crel ( $LSx, y$ ), in which case it is not permitted for an actual route CRy to have been assigned yet and a 10 signaling line group LSx has not yet been allocated, or does not have a position in an actual route CRy. In a step S8, the signaling line group LSx which is thus found is then assigned to a corresponding actual route CRy. Finally, in a step S9 the corresponding route 15 meter  $C(LSx, y)$  is updated or incremented by 1. The program ends with a step S10 when all  $m$  actual routes CRy have been assigned in this way.

Second exemplary embodiment

20

A second exemplary embodiment for setting up the actual route CRy is described below with the position method in the normal mode. In contrast to the first exemplary embodiment, it is not the case that 25 four empty positions for actual routes CRy are to be newly assigned but rather a redistribution is to be set up by means of a newly added signaling line group. The intention is once more that the load distribution in the signaling network should be optimum.

30

According to the second exemplary embodiment, the destination address (DPC) 6000 has the active actual route CRy according to table 8.

Table 8

35

CR1	CR2	CR3	CR4
link set 3	link set 20	link set 4	link set 20

According to table 8, the signaling line group LS20 (link set 20) is used both for the actual route CR2 and for CR4. The instantaneous route meters used as the basis are obtained as follows from table 9.

5

Table 9

Route meter LSx	$y = 1$ $C(LSx, 1)$	$y = 2$ $C(LSx, 2)$	$y = 3$ $C(LSx, 3)$	$y = 4$ $C(LSx, 4)$	$C_{Sum/m}$ (number m CRs = 4) $C_{setp}$ (LSx)
.....					
.....					
link set 3	5	5	5	5	5
link set 4	6	5	5	5	5.25
.....					
link set 20	12	13	14	14	13.25
.....					
link set 50	3	4	3	2	3
.....					
.....					

10 In the second embodiment, the signaling line group 50 is additionally available for the destination address (DPC) 6000. The result of another load distribution rule (not described in this case) is, for example, that the signaling line group LS20 which occurs twice is to be replaced either at position CR2  
15 or CR4 by the signaling line group LS50. For the load distribution rule according to the invention, the precise position will now be determined in order to improve a load distribution in the signaling network. According to the calculation described above for the  
20 absolute and relative deviation, the selection matrix represented in table 10 is obtained.

Table 10

[DELTA C(LS20,1) = +1.25	Delta Crel (LS20,1) = +0.09]	(*1)
DELTA C(LS20,2) = +0.25	Delta Crel (LS20,2) = +0.02	
[DELTA C(LS20,3) = -0.75	Delta Crel (LS20,3) = -0.06]	(*1)
DELTA C(LS20,4) = -0.75	Delta Crel (LS20,4) = -0.06	
[DELTA C(LS50,1) = 0	Delta Crel (LS50,1) = 0]	(*1)
DELTA C(LS50,2) = -1	Delta Crel (LS50,2) = -0.33	
[DELTA C(LS50,3) = 0	Delta Crel (LS50,3) = 0]	(*1)
DELTA C(LS50,4) = +1	Delta Crel (LS50,4) = +0.33	

5 Here, the values denoted by \*1 for the actual routes CR1 and CR3 are no longer taken into account because only the actual routes CR2 and CR4 are candidates for the application of the load distribution rule.

10 A peripheral condition here is: because the signaling line group LS20 (link set 20) is replaced, load can only be reduced for it (-). Because, in addition, the signaling line group LS50 (link set 50) is to be newly added, load can only be added for it (+).

15 This results in the following consideration of the relative deviations

20 1. The relative deviation Delta Crel (LS20,2) = +0.02 cannot be used because in fact a load is to be added at this point in accordance with the value (+), but according to the stipulation only a reduction is possible for the signaling line group LS20.

25 2. The relative deviation Delta Crel (LS20,4) = -0.06 provides a possible way of reducing the load, and is thus a candidate for the following consideration.

3. The relative deviation Delta Crel (LS50,2) = -0.33 is unsuitable for the following consideration because according to the value (-) in fact a load should be reduced here, but according to the stipulation only 5 addition is possible for the signaling line group LS50.

4. The relative deviation Delta Crel (LS50,4) = +0.33 provides, on the other hand, a possible way of adding a load, and thus constitutes a candidate for the 10 following consideration.

There thus remain two candidates for modification, the greatest relative deviation Delta Crel (LS50,4) = +0.33 being used. This means that the 15 signaling line group LS20 is replaced at the position CR4 by the signaling line group LS50, as a result of which the load distribution in the two signaling line groups is improved. The variance is improved here in a way similar to that in the first exemplary embodiment.

20

### Third exemplary embodiment

A third exemplary embodiment for setting up an actual route in accordance with a quantity method is 25 described below.

According to the third exemplary embodiment, a case will now be considered in which a signaling line group (LS20) drops out completely and has to be replaced for a plurality of destination addresses.

30

The destination addresses (DPC) 8000, 8100 and 8200 are reached, for example, via the signaling line groups LS3, LS4, LS20 and LS50 according to figure 1. The table 11 shows the associated active actual routes CRy.

Table 11

DPC 8000:	CR1	CR2	CR3	CR4
	link set 3	link set 20	link set 4	link set 50
DPC 8100:	CR1	CR2	CR3	CR4
	link set 3	link set 20	link set 4	link set 50
DPC 8200:	CR1	CR2	CR3	CR4
	link set 3	link set 20	link set 4	link set 50

5

The instantaneous summation meters which are used as the basis are assumed to be as follows according to table 12:

10 Table 12

Signaling line group LSx	C_Sum(LSx)
.....	
.....	
link set 3	3
link set 4	3
.....	
link set 20	3
.....	
link set 50	3
.....	
.....	

15 It will be assumed below that the signaling line group LS20 (link set 20) fails completely and is to be replaced as skillfully as possible in the destination addresses (DPC) 8000, 8100 and 8200. According to the load distribution rule from the quantity method, the smallest value of the summation meter

$C_{Sum}(LSx)$  of all the signaling line groups  $LSx$  involved is determined.

Since all the summation meters are the same according to table 12, the first signaling line group

5 LS3 is firstly taken as a replacement for the link set LS20. The summation meter  $C_{Sum}(LS3)$  for the signaling line group LS3 is thus incremented from 3 to 4, while the summation meter  $C_{Sum}(LS20)$  for the failed signaling line group LS20 is reduced from 3 to 2. The  
10 smallest value of the summation meter  $C_{Sum}(LSx)$  is then in turn selected for all the available signaling line groups. However, because the summation meters for both the signaling line group LS4 and the signaling line group LS50 are again of equal size (3), the  
15 signaling line group LS4 is used as a further replacement for the failed signaling line group LS20.

The value of the summation meter  $C_{Sum}(LS4)$  for the signaling line group LS4 is thus incremented by 1, while the corresponding summation meter  $C_{Sum}(LS20)$  for

20 the signaling line group 20 is in turn reduced by 1. Finally, the actual routes CRy for the destination address (DPC) 8200 are updated in the same way as for the destination addresses 8000 and 8100. The smallest sum value  $C_{Sum}(LSx)$  of all the signaling line groups  
25 involved is now 3 and is assigned to the signaling line group LS50, for which reason LS50 is used as a replacement for the signaling line group 20 in the destination address 8200. The new values of the summation meter  $C_{Sum}(LSx)$  now all have the value 4,  
30 while the summation meter  $C_{Sum}(LS20)$  for the failed signaling line group LS20 has the value 0.

Figure 3 shows an associated flowchart of a method for improving a load distribution in a signaling network according to the third exemplary embodiment.

35 According to figure 3, the meters used for selecting an actual route are initialized in a step S11

using the quantity method. In a step S12, a loop is carried out for all the destinations, the method being terminated in a step S18 only when all the destinations or destination addresses (DPC) have been processed. In 5 a step S13, a loop is carried out for all the signaling line groups LSz in possible routes PRz to the respective destination. To be more precise, in the loop according to step S13, all the possible signaling line groups for possible routes PRz to a specific 10 destination are read out of a database and checked in a subsequent step S14 to determine whether the possible signaling line group LSz can be used as an actual route CRy. If the result of the check is that the possible signaling line group LSz can in fact be used as an 15 actual route CRy, an associated summation meter C\_Sum(LSx) is read out in a step S15. The summation meter C\_Sum(LSx) indicates here the number of respectively used signaling line groups LSx for the various destination addresses. In the event of the 20 check in step S14 being negative, the method skips the reading out of the summation meter C\_Sum(LSx). Then, for both cases the loop according to step S13 is carried out for the next possible signaling line group LSx to the predetermined destination. If, according to 25 step S13, all the summation meters C\_Sum(LSx) have been implemented for all the possible signaling line groups LSz, in a step S16 a selection of the signaling line group LSx with the smallest value of an associated summation meter C\_Sum(LSx) is made for the actual 30 route. Then, in a step S17, the summation meter of the selected signaling line group LSx and/or of an associated failed signaling line group LSx is incremented or decremented. After the step S17, the method repeats the steps following the loop S12 until 35 the active actual routes CRy of all the destination addresses have been updated, and the method ends in a step S18.

According to the first and second exemplary embodiments described above, an optimum load distribution is obtained for different actual routes CRy in a respective signaling line group LSx. On the 5 other hand, according to the third exemplary embodiment, an optimum load distribution is obtained between the signaling line groups LSx used for predetermined destination addresses. In order to improve further the load distribution in a signaling 10 network, the exemplary embodiments described above can therefore also be combined with one another, as a result of which an improved load distribution is obtained both among the signaling line groups LSx used and within the active actual routes CRy.

15

#### Fourth exemplary embodiment

Figure 4 shows a flowchart of a method for improving a load distribution in a signaling network 20 according to a fourth exemplary embodiment, the exemplary embodiment described above being combined with one another.

According to Figure 4, in a step S20, the meters used for setting up an actual route with 25 position method and quantity method are initialized. In a step S21, a loop is switched for all the destinations or destination addresses DPC which are to be reached or are desired. In this loop, a subroutine 22 in which the signaling line group which is loaded the least is 30 selected with the quantity method is subsequently carried out. The subroutine U22 corresponds here essentially to the method according to the third exemplary embodiment (figure 3). After the actual routes have been selected with the quantity method in 35 the subroutine U22, an actual route is set up with the position method in a subroutine U23. The subroutine U23 corresponds here essentially to the method described above in accordance with the first or second exemplary

embodiment, and is therefore not described in more detail below. After the loop is processed in accordance with step S21, an optimum load distribution is made in accordance with the position method and quantity method, and the method ends in a step S24.

The invention has been described above with reference to a CCS7 signaling network. However it is not restricted to this and can also be applied to other signaling networks in which it is not permitted to change the values in the signaling route selection fields (SLS fields) of the message signaling units MSU.

Patent Claims

1. A method for improving a load distribution in a  
signaling network having a plurality of message  
5 transfer parts (MTP) and associated signaling line  
groups (LSx), composed of steps:

a) desired destination addresses (DPC) are defined;

b) n signaling line groups (LSx) which are to be used  
in m actual routes (CRy) to the destination addresses  
10 (DPC) are defined, and n × m associated route meters  
(C(LSx,y)) are initialized;

c) n setpoint meter readings (Csetp(LSx)) are  
calculated for each of the n signaling line groups  
(LSx);

15 d) n × m relative deviations (Delta Crel (LSx,y))  
from the respective n setpoint meter readings  
(Csetp(LSx)) are calculated for each of the n × m route  
meters (C(LSx,y));

e) m route meters (C(LSx,y)) with the greatest  
20 relative deviations (Delta Crel (LSx,y)) are determined  
for different signaling line groups (LSx); and

f) m signaling line groups (LSx) are assigned to the  
m actual routes (CRy) in accordance with the determined  
m route meters (C(LSx,y)), and affected route meters  
25 (C(LSx,y)) are adapted.

2. The method as claimed in patent claim 1,  
characterized in that the step c) comprises the steps:

c1) n sums are calculated by adding the values of the  
m route meters (C(LSx,y)) for each signaling line group  
30 (LSx); and

c2) the n sums are divided by the number m of actual  
routes (CRy).

3. The method as claimed in patent claim 1 or 2,  
characterized in that the step d) comprises the steps:

d1) the  $n \times m$  absolute deviations ( $\text{DELTA } C(LSx,y)$ ) are calculated by subtracting the values of the  $n \times m$  route meters ( $C(LSx,y)$ ) from the values of the associated  $n$  setpoint meter readings ( $C_{setp}(LSx)$ ); and

5 d2) the  $n \times m$  relative deviations ( $\Delta C_{rel}(LSx,y)$ ) are calculated by dividing the calculated absolute deviations ( $\text{DELTA } C(LSx,y)$ ) by the values of the associated  $n$  setpoint meter readings ( $C_{setp}(LSx)$ ).

4. The method for improving a load distribution as  
10 claimed in one of patent claims 1 to 3, characterized  
in that the step f) the adaptation of the affected  
route meters ( $C(LSx,y)$ ) comprises the steps:

f1) the value of the determined route meter ( $C(LSx,y)$ ) is incremented when the signaling line groups ( $LSx$ ) are  
15 defined for the first time, and  
f2) the value of the route meter associated with the determined route meter ( $C(LSx,y)$ ) is additionally decremented when the signaling line groups ( $LSx$ ) are defined again.

20 5. The method for improving a load distribution in a signaling network having a plurality of message transfer parts (MTP) and associated signaling line groups ( $LSx$ ) comprising the steps:

a) desired destination addresses (DPC) are defined;  
25 b) signaling line groups ( $LSz$ ) which can be used in possible routes ( $PRz$ ) to the destination addresses (DPC) instead of a failed or a newly available signaling line group are defined, and associated summation meters ( $C_{Sum}(LSx)$ ) which represent a number  
30 of signaling line groups in actual routes ( $CRxy$ ) to all the defined destination addresses (DPC) are defined;  
c) each of the defined signaling line groups ( $LSx$ ) is checked to determine whether it is available and/or permitted as an actual route ( $CRy$ ) to the defined  
35 destination addresses;

- d) the summation meters ( $C_{Sum}(LSx)$ ) are read out for all the defined signaling line groups if the result in step c) is positive;
- e) the signaling line groups ( $LSx$ ) for the respective destination addresses whose associated summation meters ( $C_{Sum}(LSx)$ ) have the smallest value are selected;
- 5 f) the selected signaling line groups ( $LSx$ ) are assigned to the actual routes ( $CRy$ ) for the respective destination addresses; and
- 10 g) the values of the affected summation meters ( $C_{Sum}(LSx)$ ) are adapted.

6. The method as claimed in patent claim 5, characterized in that in step g) the adaptation of the affected summation meters ( $C_{Sum}(LSx)$ ) constitute an incrementation of the summation meter with the smallest sum and a decrementation of the summation meter for the failed or the newly available signaling line group.

7. A method for improving a load distribution in a signaling network having a plurality of message transfer parts (MTP) and associated signaling line groups ( $LSx$ ) composed of the combination of the method as claimed in patent claim 5 or 6 for selecting an actual route, and the method as claimed in one of patent claims 1 to 4 for setting up an actual route.

## Abstract

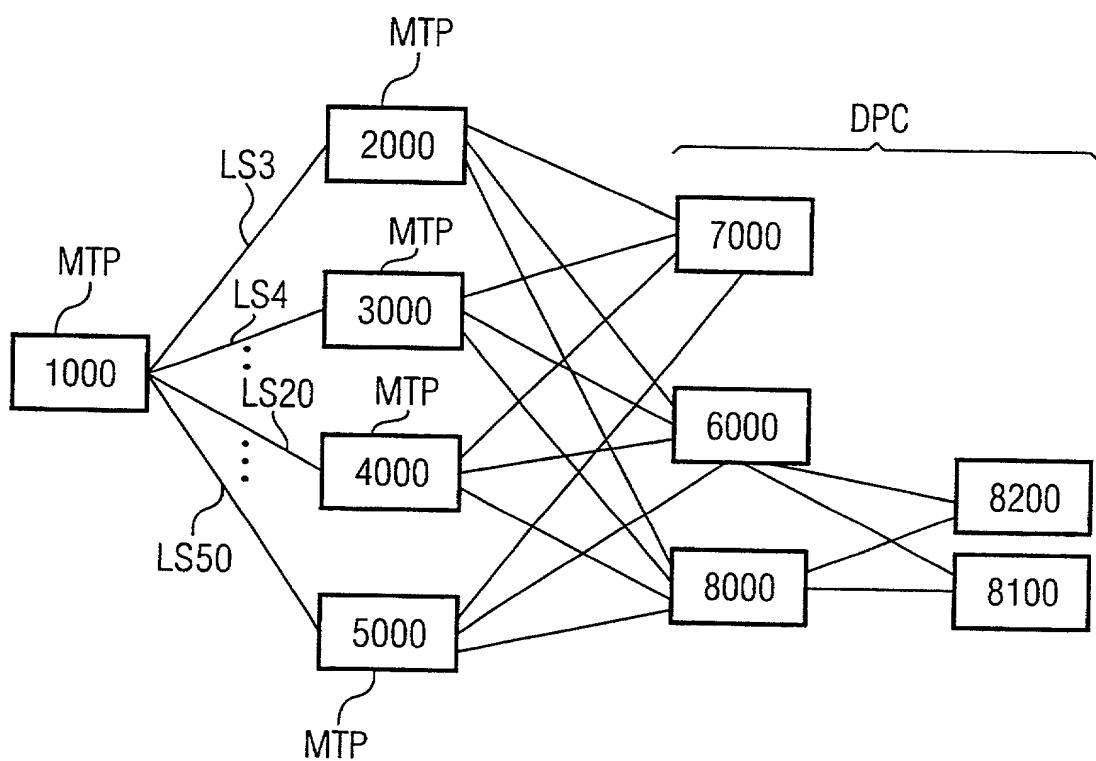
Method for improving a load distribution in a signaling network

The invention relates to a method for improving a load distribution in a signaling network having a plurality of message transfer parts (MTP) and associated signaling line groups (LSx), a deviation from a setpoint value being determined for each signaling line group (LSx) and each active actual route (CRy). Initial assignment or re-assignment of signaling line groups (LSx) to a predetermined destination address (DPC) is subsequently set, taking into account a determined deviation, in such a way that an optimum load distribution comes about in the signaling network.

Figure 1

1/6

FIG 1



2/6

FIG 2

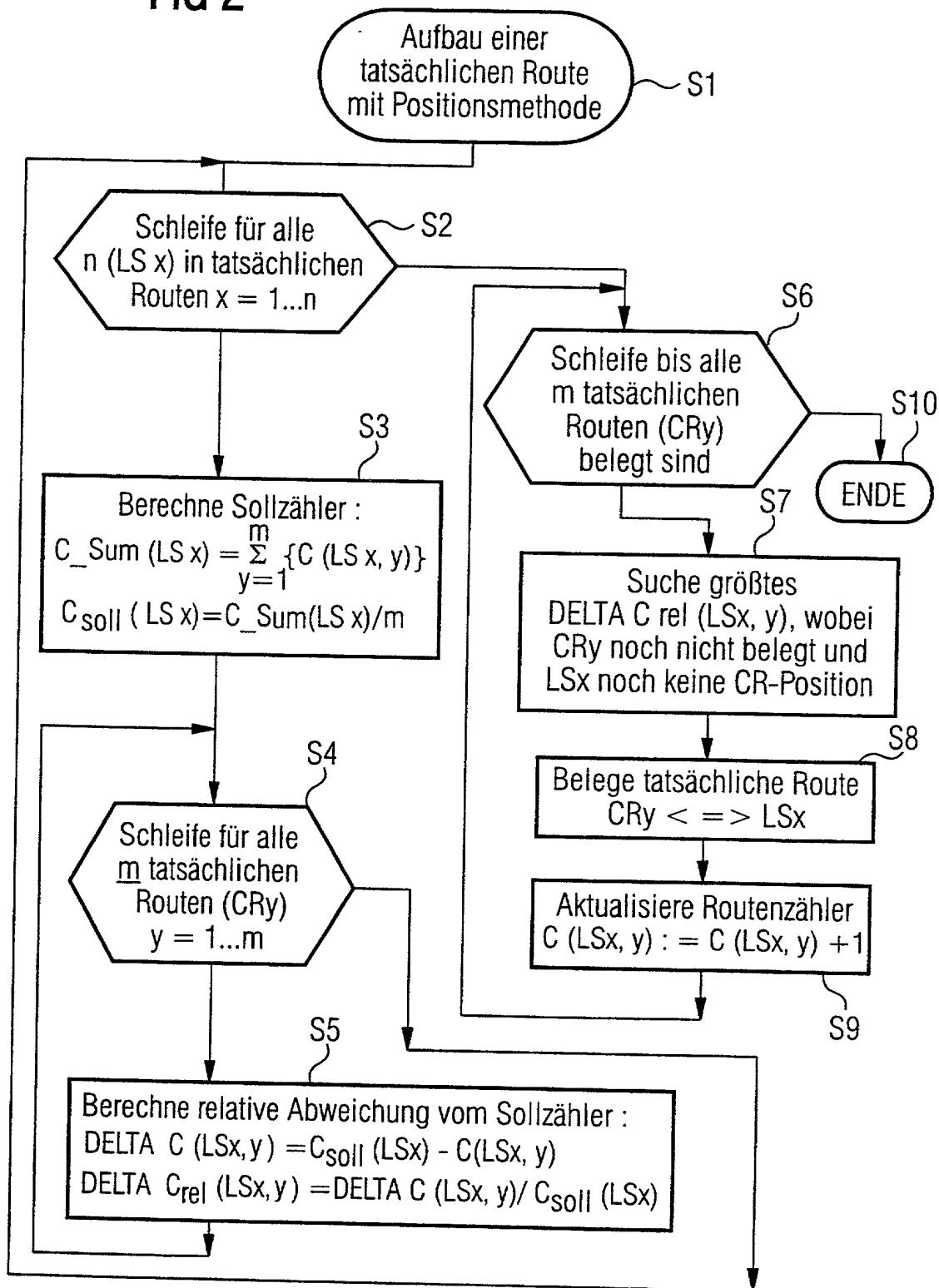


FIG 3

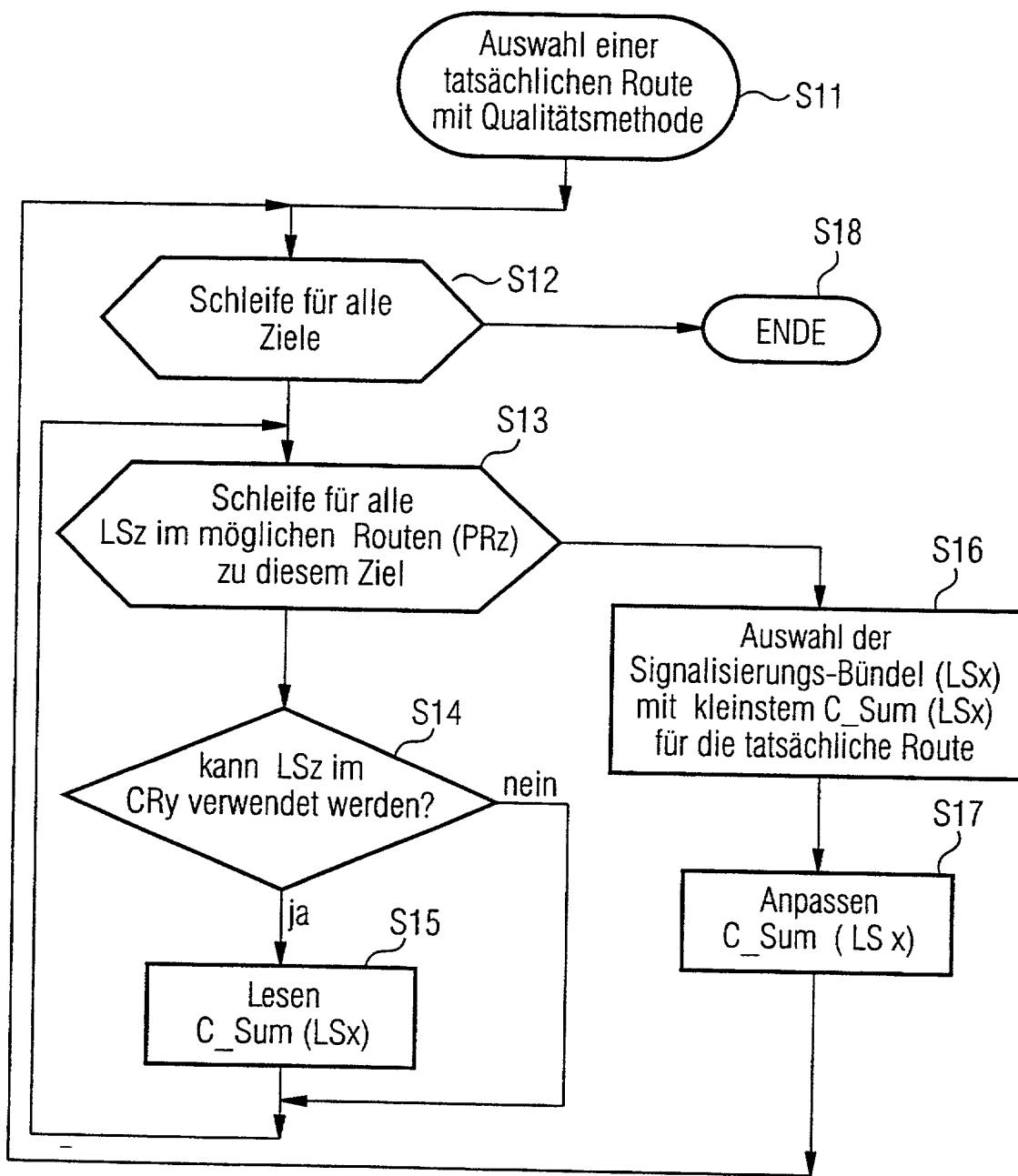
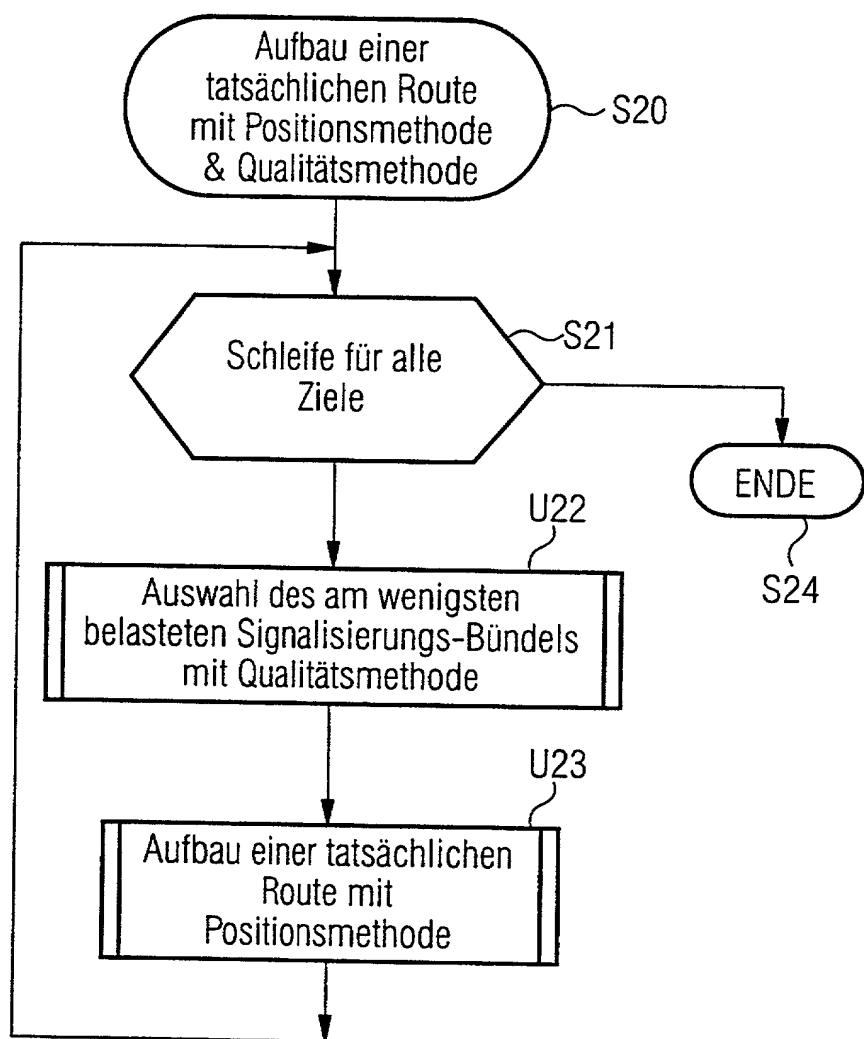
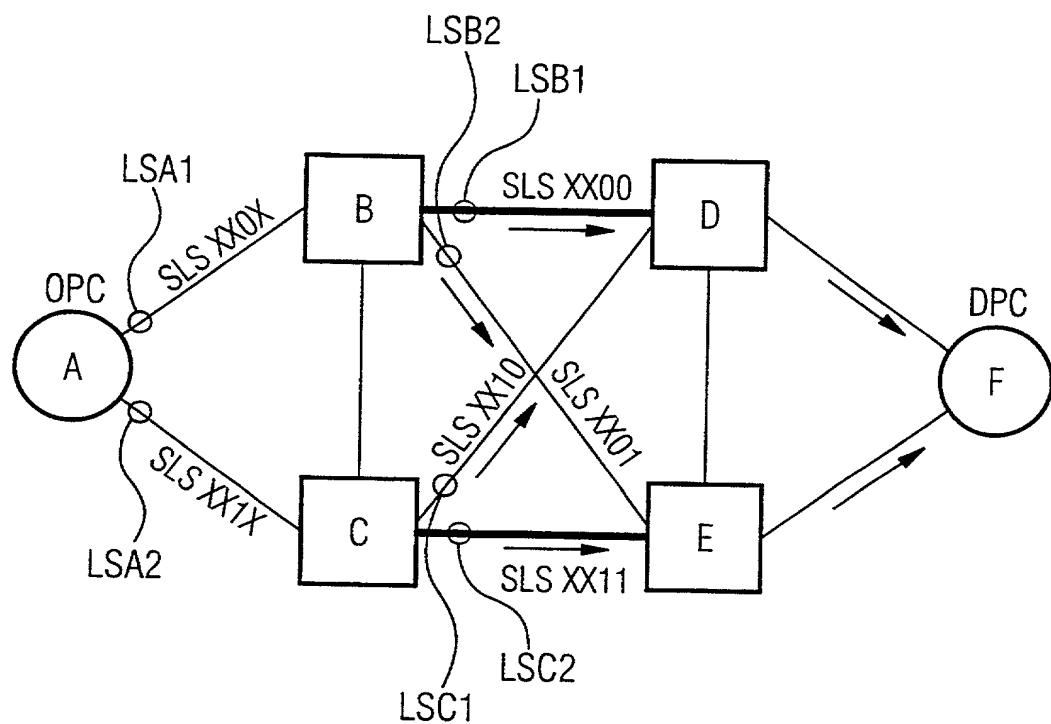


FIG 4

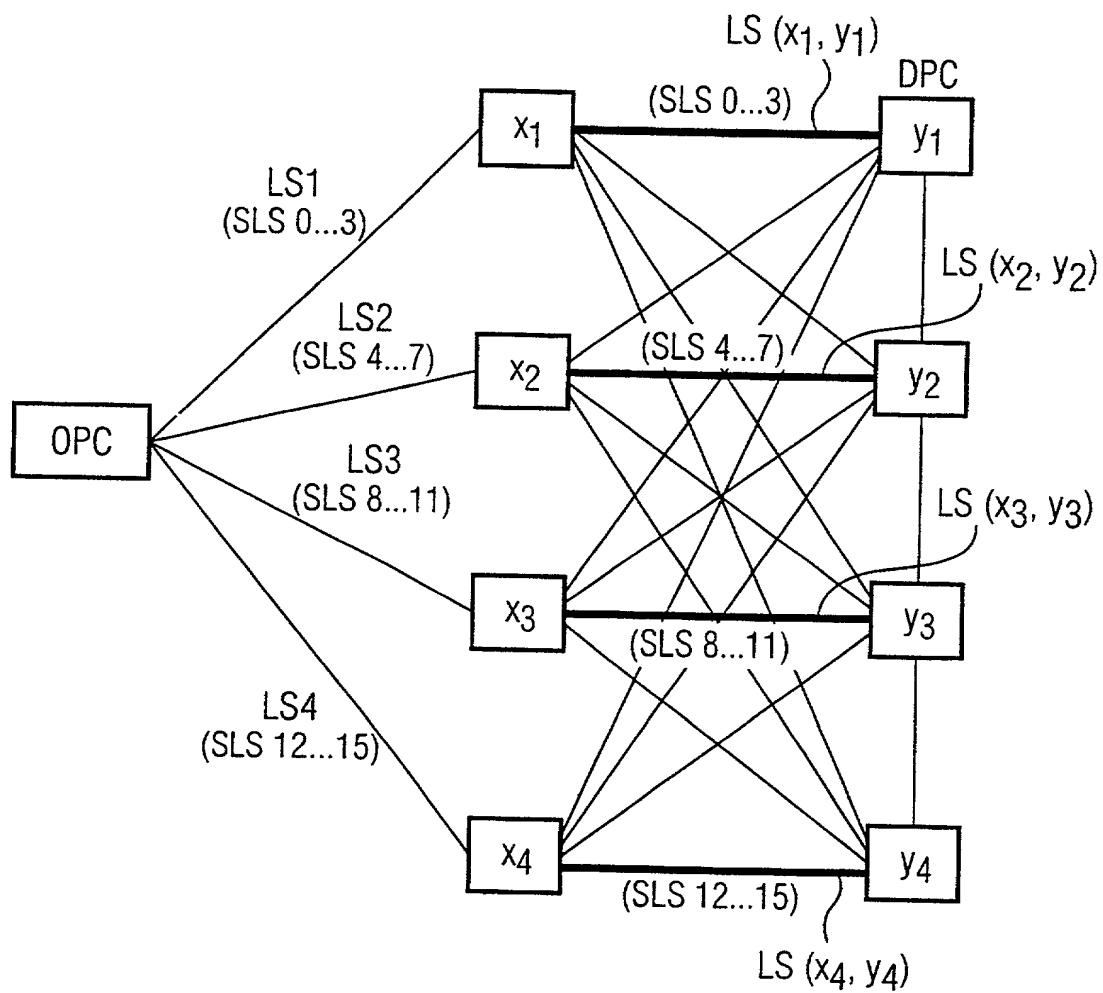


**FIG 5**  
Stand der Technik



A → B → D → F	SLS = XX00
A → C → D → F	SLS = XX10
A → B → E → F	SLS = XX01
A → C → E → F	SLS = XX11

**FIG 6**  
Stand der Technik



**Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application**  
**Erklärung Für Patentanmeldungen Mit Vollmacht**  
 German Language Declaration

Als nachstehend benannter Erfinder erkläre ich hiermit an Eides Statt:

dass mein Wohnsitz, meine Postanschrift, und meine Staatsangehörigkeit den im Nachstehenden nach meinem Namen aufgeführten Angaben entsprechen,

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Verfahren zur Verbesserung einer Lastverteilung in einem Signalisierungsnetz

deren Beschreibung

(zutreffendes ankreuzen)

hier beigelegt ist.

am 01.02.2000 als

PCT internationale Anmeldung

PCT Anmeldungsnummer PCT/DE00/00279

eingereicht wurde und am

abgeändert wurde (falls tatsächlich abgeändert).

Ich bestätige hiermit, dass ich den Inhalt der obigen Patentanmeldung einschliesslich der Ansprüche durchgesehen und verstanden habe, die eventuell durch einen Zusatzantrag wie oben erwähnt abgeändert wurde.

Ich erkenne meine Pflicht zur Offenbarung irgendwelcher Informationen, die für die Prüfung der vorliegenden Anmeldung in Einklang mit Absatz 37, Bundesgesetzbuch, Paragraph 1.56(a) von Wichtigkeit sind, an.

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As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

Method for improving a load distribution in a signalling network

the specification of which

(check one)

is attached hereto.

was filed on 01.02.2000 as

PCT international application

PCT Application No. PCT/DE00/00279

and was amended on

(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

## German Language Declaration

Prior foreign applications  
Priorität beansprucht

Priority Claimed

<u>19904758.8</u>	<u>DE</u>	<u>05.02.1999</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
(Number) (Nummer)	(Country) (Land)	(Day Month Year Filed) (Tag Monat Jahr eingereicht)	Ja	Nein
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
(Number) (Nummer)	(Country) (Land)	(Day Month Year Filed) (Tag Monat Jahr eingereicht)	Ja	Nein
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
(Number) (Nummer)	(Country) (Land)	(Day Month Year Filed) (Tag Monat Jahr eingereicht)	Ja	Nein

Ich beanspruche hiermit gemäss Absatz 35 der Zivilprozessordnung der Vereinigten Staaten, Paragraph 120, den Vorzug aller unten aufgeführten Anmeldungen und falls der Gegenstand aus jedem Anspruch dieser Anmeldung nicht in einer früheren amerikanischen Patentanmeldung laut dem ersten Paragraphen des Absatzes 35 der Zivilprozeßordnung der Vereinigten Staaten, Paragraph 122 offenbart ist, erkenne ich gemäss Absatz 37, Bundesgesetzbuch, Paragraph 1.56(a) meine Pflicht zur Offenbarung von Informationen an, die zwischen dem Anmeldedatum der früheren Anmeldung und dem nationalen oder PCT internationalen Anmeldedatum dieser Anmeldung bekannt geworden sind.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §122, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

PCT/DE00/00279  
(Application Serial No.)  
(Anmeldeseriennummer)

01.02.2000  
(Filing Date D, M, Y)  
(Anmeldedatum T, M, J)

anhängig  
(Status)  
(patentiert, anhängig,  
aufgegeben)

pending  
(Status)  
(patented, pending,  
abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)  
(Anmeldeseriennummer)

(Filing Date D, M, Y)  
(Anmeldedatum T, M, J)

(Status)  
(patentiert, anhängig,  
aufgegeben)

(Status)  
(patented, pending,  
abandoned)

Ich erkläre hiermit, dass alle von mir in der vorliegenden Erklärung gemachten Angaben nach meinem besten Wissen und Gewissen der vollen Wahrheit entsprechen, und dass ich diese eidesstattliche Erklärung in Kenntnis dessen abgebe, dass wissentlich und vorsätzlich falsche Angaben gemäss Paragraph 1001, Absatz 18 der Zivilprozessordnung der Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika mit Geldstrafe belegt und/oder Gefängnis bestraft werden können, und dass derartig wissentlich und vorsätzlich falsche Angaben die Gültigkeit der vorliegenden Patentanmeldung oder eines darauf erteilten Patentes gefährden können.

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### German Language Declaration

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**POWER OF ATTORNEY:** As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. *(list name and registration number)*

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